

IAC-D-45/12.15
4 November 1955

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of International Labor Affairs
Washington

October 11, 1955

Mr. Harrie A. James
Chief, Liaison Division
Office of Central Reference
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. James:

I have your letter of October 6 in which you request us to submit on behalf of the Department of Labor, a statement explaining the need of this Department for copies of the labor and manpower sections of the National Intelligence Surveys (NIS).

The Department of Labor, as you know, participates in a large number of international functions of the Government. For example, we have a major responsibility in coordinating the activities of various units in the U. S. Government in the affairs of the International Labor Organization. We participate with other agencies in the operation of the unified Foreign Service and we thus have a special concern with the activities of labor attaches and labor reporting officers. In addition, we cooperate with other agencies in the formulation of international policies in which the consideration of labor situations in foreign countries is important. To perform these functions, it is essential that we have at our disposal all available information on foreign labor situations. Although we do receive, of course, Foreign Service reports from labor attaches and labor reporting officers and source materials from foreign countries, it is necessary to have, in addition, summaries, analyses, and observations prepared anywhere in the Government on foreign labor situations.

In addition to needing information for our own policy making functions, we are called upon frequently to furnish background material on many facets of the labor situation in foreign countries to other agencies. Among the agencies which have come to us for

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information are the following:

1. Members of Congress and members of the staffs of Congressmen and of Congressional committees;
2. The Council of Economic Advisers;
3. The Office of Intelligence Research of the State Department;
4. The operating bureaus of the State Department;
5. The Department of Defense;
6. The Department of Commerce;
7. The Central Intelligence Agency;
8. The International Cooperation Administration; and
9. The United States Information Agency.

The information requested from these agencies covers almost every aspect of the labor situation and ranges in nature of classification from unclassified to secret.

The Department of Labor also has a traditional function incorporated in its basic legislation, of disseminating unclassified information to the general public in its fields of competence. In the case of information on foreign labor conditions, this function not only operates as a service to the public but it also is in harmony with the basic objectives of the U. S. Government in the international labor field, because it tends to create a better understanding and comprehension on the part of the public in the problems in this area.

The Department of Labor, in cooperation with the International Cooperation Administration, operates a program of technical assistance to foreign visitors, teams, and trainees. Background information covering aspects of the labor situation in the countries from which these visitors come is essential to the intelligent and

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efficient programming done by people in this country for these foreign teams, visitors, and trainees.

In performing each of these functions we can do the job more efficiently and with greater understanding if we have the fullest possible knowledge of labor conditions abroad. For these reasons we feel that the National Intelligence Surveys would be of material assistance to us.

There is, in addition, another aspect of the question. We have made contributions to the NIS surveys. Staff members in this Department have for a period of years made available to staff members of the Office of Intelligence Research a considerable amount of information and have also furnished to these staff members the benefit of their own observations, based on their experience in following the labor affairs of the countries assigned to them. We do not, however, see the finished results of this mutual endeavor. We feel that as a contributor it is appropriate for us to have copies of the NIS Surveys, not only from the standpoint of our own interest in the problem, but because a review of the finished products would make us better able to make intelligent contributions in the future.

I hope that this letter will provide the supplementary information you need in connection with my request that the Department of Labor be provided with copies of the NIS sections on labor and manpower. I shall appreciate your further consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

/s/ ARNOLD ZEMPEL
Executive Director

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